

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Agent File No.: 13738-7US SC/lp

Applicant(s): LAPOINTE, Jean et al.
Application No.: 09/820,834
Filed: March 30, 2001
Title: ANCHORING MEMBER FOR A SUPPORT POST
Examiner: SAFAVI, Michael
Group Art Unit: 3673

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AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a response to the Final Office Action dated August 26, 2002, which is being filed simultaneously with a Request for Continued Examination. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 10 and 21 as follows:

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1. (twice amended) A post comprising a footing adapted to be driven into the ground, said footing including a socket member that is protected against deformation while being implanted into the ground by an outer sleeve, said outer sleeve having trailing and leading ends, said leading end being adapted to be forcibly driven into the ground in response to a driving force applied to said trailing end, said socket member (being received in an axially non-interfering relationship within said outer sleeve) with said leading end of said outer sleeve extending beyond said socket member so as to define a free space extending axially below said socket member for absorbing the shock in the event that an obstacle is encountered while